GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1217
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Requirements for Issue of Passports
Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government has recently changed the requirements for obtaining a passport and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this move has been well received by the people and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this has increased the number of applications for issue of passport and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The Government has simplified the process of issuance of passport in order to make it more expedient, convenient and transparent. The Ministry of External Affairs made two major changes w.e.f. 26 January, 2016 that have expedited the process for first time passport applicants as well as made it more convenient to secure an online appointment at the local Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs). As per these changes, the first time passport applicants who furnish Aadhaar Card, Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), PAN Card and an affidavit in the prescribed format, will get faster service, without payment of additional fees, subject to successful online validation of Aadhaar, EPIC and PAN cards from the respective databases. The passports under this liberal dispensation will be issued on Post-Police Verification basis.

The second measure pertains to securing online Appointments for submission of passport applications at PSKs. The new provision is allowing applicants to choose any appointment date from the earliest five available dates (working days) for scheduling/rescheduling an appointment for passport related services. Earlier, the System used to offer only one available date to the applicant for seeking appointment for passport related services. These measures have simplified the process of passport issuance and reduced the difficulties faced by the applicants.

The Ministry has also reviewed the policy regarding changing the date of birth (DOB) in the existing passport. As per the revised guidelines, the Passport Issuing Authorities (PIA) have been authorized to consider the explanation of each applicant seeking change in the DOB (irrespective of the period that would have lapsed after the issue of the passport) to find the genuineness of the claim and if the PIA is satisfied with the claim and with the document(s) submitted by the applicant in support of the claim, the PIA shall accept all such requests made by the applicant to issue the passport with revised DOB.

In addition, necessary instructions have been issued to the Passport Issuing Authorities to accept digitally signed Marriage Certificates and Birth Certificates as valid proofs of marriage and birth respectively.

(c) The Ministry received 86,99,690 passport applications in 2014, 1,03,01,358 in 2015 and 81,05,506 applications till 31st October 2016. Compared with the number of passport applications received till 31st October 2015, there is a minor decline in the number of passport applications received in India till 31st October 2016.